

WHAT'S NEW?

Installation of New Parking Meters

Details, page 4

Recreation Scholarships for City Residents

Details, page 6

Five Questions for Ira Kowler, Economic Development Manager

Details, page 11

City Offices & Facilities Closed

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Sunday, Jan. 16 - Monday, Jan. 17

Trash/Recycling Collection

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Monday, Jan. 17
Monday yard waste collection canceled



Look for this icon throughout this issue

See page 10

Editor's Note: The Winter City Guide inserted with this issue of the newsletter was printed prior to some classes and events being postponed or canceled as well as rental services being postponed until further notice. Please check the City's website for the most up to date information on cancellations, postponements, and service changes.

Redistricting



Transparent



Community Informed
and Equitable



Data Driven

takomaparkmd.gov/redistricting

Redistricting Update and Schedule for Completion

With the completion of the 2020 U.S. Census, the population balance of the City's wards must be reviewed, and the boundaries adjusted to ensure that wards are close to equal in population and meet other requirements. All cities across the U.S. go through this process every decade. The final decision on ward boundaries will be made by the City Council and will be effective for the next City election.

The City is working with a consultant to develop a new ward map that meets the legal requirements and the criteria set by

the City Council. So far, the City has hosted two community meetings, and the consultant has prepared five draft maps that were presented for feedback at the second community meeting.

The City has also prepared a survey for residents to share information about their communities and neighborhoods, a comment form for residents to share comments and questions on the redistricting process, an FAQ answering common

REDISTRICTING □ Page 3



New 2022 Assessed Real Property Values are Here!

This winter, property owners across the City will receive an updated assessed value for their properties. The State of Maryland conducts these assessments every three years, guiding the tax rates that the City and County set for residents and business owners (See takomaparkmd.gov/government/finance/real-property-tax for more



information.). Property taxes are determined by two factors: (1) the total assessed value of the real property (land plus improvements) and (2) the property tax rate that is established by each taxing jurisdiction. In Takoma Park, taxing jurisdictions include the State of Mary-

PROPERTY VALUES □ Page 3

Information and Resources: Covid19
takomaparkmd.gov

Questions, Comments and Suggestions
askus@takomaparkmd.gov

#TogetherTKPK

IMPORTANT DATES

Community Listening Sessions on Zoom

January 10 and 11

- Monday, January 10, 7–8 p.m.
 - Tuesday, January 11, 6:30–7:30 p.m.
- These meetings are intended to give as many people as possible an opportunity to review and comment on map options before they are presented to the City Council on January 19. Register at takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/redistricting.

Council Review of Possible Ward Maps

January 19

The City Council will discuss map options at its meeting on January 19. Maps will be available for review on the City's website beginning January 12.

Continued Discussion of Ward Maps (if needed)

February 2

Public Hearing on Redistricting Plan

February 9

Ordinance Adopting Redistricting Plan

February 16 and February 23

Redistricting FAQs

Q: Does the redistricting affect school district assignments?

A: Absolutely not. School districts are established by a separate process conducted by Montgomery County Public Schools. Even if you change wards through city redistricting, it will not affect school assignments. Additionally, Takoma Park's redistricting will not affect County Council representation or your representation in any other level of government.

Q: Why can't the City just keep the current ward map?

A: The City's current wards are not population balanced. The District Scenario Modeler shows that the current wards have an imbalance of 77.5 percent between the highest and lowest population ward (the actual deviation is likely slightly lower; blocks are assigned to wards based on which ward the centerpoint of the block falls in, and in some cases the population-center won't be in the block-center. We cannot know

REDISTRICTING FAQs □ Page 3

Mayor & Council
 7500 Maple Ave.
 Takoma Park, MD 20912

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRE-SORT STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 TAKOMA PARK, MD
 PERMIT NO. 4422

Inside



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Docs in Progress Profile
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DOCKET

Official City Government Meetings

The City Council returns from recess on Wednesday, January 12. For the month of January, meetings will continue to be remote/virtual on Zoom. Check the city calendar at www.takomaparkmd.gov for the most up to date schedule information for the City Council and boards and committees. Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and committee calendar update by e-mail can sign up by sending an email to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Wednesday, January 12, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, January 13, 6 p.m. (closed session)
- Wednesday, January 19, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 26, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 2, 7:30 p.m.

CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 25, 7 p.m.
Community Center Hydrangea Room

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, January 13, 7 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

COMMISSION ON LANDLORD-TENANT AFFAIRS

Check the calendar for date and location.

ETHICS COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 12, 7:30 p.m.
Remote/Virtual Meeting

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Check the calendar for date and location.

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 11, 7:30 p.m.
Remote/Virtual Meeting

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Check the calendar for date and location.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 20, 7 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

SUSTAINABLE BANKING AND INVESTMENTS TASK FORCE

Monday, January 10, 7 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)
Monday, January 24, 7 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND COMMITTEE

Check the calendar for date and location.

TREE COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 12, 7 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

YOUTH COUNCIL

Sunday, January 9, 3:30 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room and Zoom)
Sunday, January 23, 3:30 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room and Zoom)

ADA NOTICE

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone with a disability who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations at a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing is invited to contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267 as early as possible.

City Council Action

Only negative votes or abstentions are reported here. Resolutions and ordinances are published online after adoption.

At the City Council meeting on **November 10, 2021**, **Ordinance 2021-45** was adopted to authorize the purchase of a loader for Public Works from Jesco Inc., at the cost of \$131,113. **Ordinance 2021-48** was also adopted, authorizing a contract for a compensation and pay equity study. The study is to be conducted by Bolton USA at the cost of up to \$34,000.

On **November 17, 2021**, the City Council approved a contract with Arcadis for construction management services for the Library Redevelopment Project by **Ordinance 2021-50**. The Council authorized a contract with Matrix Consulting Group for consulting services for an organizational workforce needs and risk assessment study at the cost of up to \$78,500. **Ordinance 2021-47** also authorized appropriation of the funds to the City Administration Contracts account through use of fund balance. **Ordinance 2021-49** was adopted, amending the Takoma Park Code, Chapter 6.16, Landlord-Tenant Relations, to require landlords to install window guards in certain units in certain multifamily dwellings. Purchase of police vehicles was approved by **Ordinance 2021-51**. The vehicles are to be purchased from Apple Ford at the cost of \$210,000. The vehicles will be outfitted through Frontline Mobile Tech at a cost of \$90,760.

Also, on **November 17, Ordinance 2021-46** was adopted to provide for adjustments to the salary and compensation of the Mayor and Councilmembers. Increases will take effect with the swearing in of the Mayor and Councilmembers elected in the November 2022 election. The salary of the Mayor will be increased to \$32,000 per year. The salary of each Councilmember will be increased to \$24,000 per year. Finally, the Council adopted **Resolution 2021-46** setting forth the dates of the Council's winter recess. (First reading of Ordinances 2021-47, 2021-49, and 2021-46 was held on November 10, 2021).

A Special Meeting of the City Council was held on **December 1, 2021**. At the meeting, **Resolution 2021-47** was adopted to appoint Paul Gunter, Ward 1, to the Task Force on Sustainable Banking and Investments. Mr. Gunter is replacing Jay Levy, Ward 1, who resigned from the Task Force. Also, at the meeting, **Ordinance 2021-52** was adopted to amend the annual budget to provide additional compensation to City employees in recognition of their efforts during the last year. The ordinance appropriated \$535,000 for a one-time lump sum payment in the amount of \$2,500 to be made at the end of 2021 to all City of Takoma Park employees who were employed as of December 1, 2021. The payment to employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement is contingent upon agreement with the respective unions.

Important City Department Phone Numbers

City Information	301-891-7100
City Clerk.....	301-891-7267
Communications.....	301-891-7236
Finance	301-891-7212
Housing & Community Development.....	301-891-7119
Library	301-891-7259
Neighborhood Services.....	301-891-7113
Police	301-270-1100 / Emergency 911
Public Works.....	301-891-7633
Recreation/Facilities Rental.....	301-891-7290



REDISTRICTING

■ From page 1

questions about the redistricting process, and a map-making tool for residents to create their own ward maps. The draft maps (including a web map laying out the current wards and different options), surveys, FAQs, and the tool are available on the City redistricting webpage (takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/redistricting) and accompanying engagement portal.

At this point, the City staff and consultant continue to review comments, draft maps, and feedback from residents to refine maps presented at the community meeting. Now through January 10, we encourage all residents to visit the City's redistricting webpages to review information, submit comments, submit maps, and fill out a survey to identify your neighborhood. All comments, surveys, and maps will be reviewed before the final two or three maps are presented for consideration by the City Council.

We've prepared a description of Census blocks (from which wards are built) and answers to common questions about the redistricting process. A longer FAQ can be found on the redistricting webpage. If you have questions or need assistance with using the District Scenario Modeler to create a map, please contact Jessie

Carpenter, City Clerk, at jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267.

Census Blocks

A census block is the smallest geographic unit for which the census provides population counts and demographic data. A typical census block would be bounded by streets, so that if you walk around the block and never cross a through street, the area you walked around would be one census block. In Takoma Park, some blocks are very large because many of our neighborhoods do not have a typical street grid structure, while others are smaller and more like a regular city block.

The wards should be comprised of a series of complete census blocks so that a more accurate count of people within the ward can be obtained to ensure that the wards are similar in population size. It also enables residents, staff, and Council to understand the demographics of a ward and how the wards change over time, which also helps the Council know more about the needs of each ward in making policy decisions. With wards made up of complete census blocks, we will have much better information about changes to each ward for the next redistricting (after the 2030 census).

For more information, visit takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/redistricting.

neighborhood associations. The City and consultant are working to preserve residents' geographic communities as much as possible while balancing required criteria found in the City Charter: "wards shall be as nearly equal in population as is practical and apportioned consistently with the principle of one person/one vote, wards shall be geographically contiguous, ward boundaries shall to the extent practical recognize natural boundaries, and no ward shall be gerrymandered to ensure the election or defeat of any incumbent candidate or potential candidate." Making maps that meet all criteria is challenging, and the draft maps prepared by the consultant so far reflect different options for prioritizing certain criteria.

We encourage residents to share information about their communities and which draft maps they prefer using the communities of interest survey and comment form.

You will continue to be able to advocate with your neighbors towards the City Council regardless of what ward you're in.

PROPERTY VALUES

■ From page 1

land, Montgomery County, and the City.

Assessments are based on the fair market value of the property and are issued by the Department of Assessments and Taxation, an agency of the State government. Properties are reassessed once every three years, and property owners are notified of any change in the assessed value of their property in late December. Properties in Takoma Park are scheduled to be reassessed in January 2022, with the new assessed value taking effect in July 2022.

Appealing Your Assessment

The notice contains an appeal form and instructions that must be filed with the local assessment office within the 45-day

time limit for appeal. When considering whether to appeal an assessment, the focus should be on the total new fair market value and whether any errors have been made in evaluating the improvement characteristics on the property.

Using the Interactive Map

The City Planning Division has created an interactive map as a tool to provide a broad-based view of your property assessment as well as your neighborhood and surrounding areas. This may assist you should you need to appeal your assessment.

To see the interactive map that displays how your property value has changed since the 2019 assessment, visit the City website and search for "Real Property Tax."

Using the Takoma Park Project Directory

What is going on in Takoma Park? The Project Directory can fill you in! The Project Directory lists all major projects currently being worked on or planned citywide and includes need-to-know information for each one. takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory

GOVERNMENT	SERVICES	INITIATIVES	NEWS
Boards, Commissions & Committees	Bids & Contracts	Project Directory (All City Projects)	City Election Information
City Clerk	Business & Multifamily	Arts and Humanities	City Council & Mayor Blog
City Council	Recycling	Census 2020 –	City Manager & Staff Blog
City Manager	Careers/Jobs	Everyone Counts in Montgomery County	News & News Alerts
City TV	Community Partners and Resources	Community Conversations	Forever Young
Communications	Curbside Collection		

1. To access the Project Directory from the City of Takoma Park website, on the home page under initiatives, select "Project Directory" as shown above.

Project Title & Link	Project Classification	Target Completion Date	Ward
Library Renovation Project	Public Infrastructure - Buildings	2017 - TBD	Citywide

Table: City of Takoma Park project directory listing all of the major projects currently being worked on or planned.

Project Title & Link	Project Classification	Completion Date	Ward
Washington Adventist Hospital	Regional Project	2019	Citywide
Dorothy's Woods	Public Infrastructure - Property	2018	3
Police Chief Search	Recruitment	2017-12	Citywide

2. You'll be taken to the "Project Directory" page, which lists all major projects being worked on or planned citywide. Projects are grouped by classification based on their purpose.

STREETLIGHT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

About the Streetlight Replacement Project

The goal of the streetlight replacement project is to improve the quality of street lighting in Takoma Park. Benefits of the project include energy savings, cost savings, reduced light pollution, improved reliability, and an improvement in overall quality of street light. On October 24, 2018, the City Council approved staff recommendation to replace the existing streetlight with LED fixtures through the PEPCO conversion program.

Current Project Status

Lighting Maintenance Inc. a subcontractor for PEPCO began the street light replacement the second week of December, 2018 and completed the work in July, 2019.

Residents who wish to request additional shielding on the new streetlights in the case of light intrusion into bedroom windows can send an email with the request, address, and your contact information to: publicworks@takomaparkmd.gov. Please include the pole number for the fixture and nearest address.

Project Background

The discussion concerning the benefits of replacing the City's streetlights began about ten years ago. The discussion has included staff presentations to City Council in April, 2015, March, 2016 and October, 2016. At the October 2016 meeting, City Council authorized staff to pursue the conversion of existing streetlights to LED technology via Resolution 2016-41. The Council Resolution directed staff and Pepco to ensure that all replacement fixtures be International

Streetlight Replacement Details

Project Info & Timeline

- Completion date: July, 2019
- Takoma Park's role in project: Lead
- Departments Involved: Public Works

Budget & Funding Source

The City currently pays approximately \$233,000 annually for street light electricity and fixture maintenance. \$180,000 is paid to Pepco for maintenance and operation, taxes, and fees; \$53,000 is paid to WGL for the electricity use (100% Wind).

Based on Pepco's calculations, the reduction in energy use and maintenance costs will result in a savings of approximately \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually. The overall cost of the program is expected to be \$372,000 and the City anticipates a \$260,000 rebate from the Empower Maryland Program. Based on the projected annual savings, the program will pay for itself in less than two years and those savings from reduced energy use and maintenance costs will carry through for the life of the fixtures.

Links & Notes

- June 2019, LED Light Replacement Presentation at MML Conference
- April 2015, City Council Work Session Cover-sheet
- September 2016 City Council Work Session Cover-sheet
- City Council Resolution 2016-41
- Map of test fixture locations

3. Then click on the name of the project that interests you. In this example, a resident wanted more information about Streetlight Replacement Project.

REDISTRICTING FAQs

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precisely because the old ward map splits blocks, and we don't know how the population of split-blocks is distributed on each side of the cut. Population balance is important so that residents have equal representation in city government. The generally accepted standard for population balance is to have no more than a 10 percent difference between the ward with the most people and the ward with the fewest people. A lower difference is preferable.

Q: I am concerned that the redistricting will divide my neighborhood between two wards, diluting our ability to influence the City Council's decisions. Can that be prevented?

A: Through the community meetings and the neighborhood survey, the City and consultants are collecting information on residents' "communities of interest," neighborhoods, and formal and informal



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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Assistant: Sean Gossard

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BUILDING COMMUNITY

Installation of New Parking Meters

Pursuant to Chapter 13.12 "Parking Meters" of the Takoma Park Code, notice is hereby provided of the city manager's intention to establish a new two-hour parking meter zone in front of 6940 Carroll Avenue. The zone will be in effect from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Rates for the meters will be consistent with others in the area at \$0.75 per hour.

This change will become effective February 7, 2022.

Public comments may be sent to the City Clerk, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. 20912 or by e-mail to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov. The deadline for receipt of public comments is Monday, January 31, 2022.

For additional information, contact the project manager Alex Freedman, 301-891-7213 or alexanderf@takomaparkmd.gov.



Plant-A-Tree – Orders Now Being Accepted for Spring 2022

The City of Takoma Park offers discounted tree plantings for private property for the Spring and Fall planting seasons. Orders are now being accepted for Spring 2022. Orders must be submitted to the Public Works Office by February 21 to be included in the Spring planting season. Either visit the Tree Care and Resource page of the City of Takoma Park website or the Public Works Office at 31 Oswego Avenue to download or pick up an order form.

Trees offer numerous benefits to your yard and to the community, including providing cooling shade, intercepting stormwater, supporting a robust local ecology, and providing natural beautification. With a changing climate and other stresses challenging our mature tree populations, planting new young trees is more important than ever. You can be a part of this important cause by having a tree planted in your yard, and we are excited to partner with you to help make that happen.

This program focuses on planting native shade trees. Shade trees do the best



Swamp White Oak Cutline

job at providing canopy cover to the city. Pick-up an order form to see which trees are being offered this season. We look forward to working with you to restore the urban forest canopy of Takoma Park and beautify your yard.

Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment Boundary



The project boundary for the Minor Master Plan Amendment process extends from the Washington Adventist University and Hospital campuses northward to Erie Center and west along Maple Ave to Philadelphia Ave.

Help re-envision the Washington Adventist Hospital and University Campuses with the City of Takoma Park and Montgomery Planning

The City of Takoma Park and Montgomery Planning are currently gathering feedback from community members for the Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment. The plan will update a small part of the 2000 *Takoma Park Master Plan*, including the Washington Adventist Hospital and University campuses as well as the surrounding area along Maple Avenue. This will guide the area's future growth with a focus on equity and climate impact, including reviewing housing options, considering access to parks and open space, and achieving Vision Zero walkability goals. To ensure the plan is strongly rooted in the community's identity and core values, the planning team has been busy meeting with residents, property owners, and other stakeholders.

The planning team enlisted the aid of a grassroots advocacy group, who along with volunteers from the community, were out throughout December knocking on doors, distributing flyers in multiple languages, and interviewing residents about what they like most about the area

and what they would like to see change. If you live in the multi-family dwelling units along Maple Avenue, you may have encountered them or received a flyer about the plan. Although this current outreach effort is focused on residents who live along Maple Avenue, it will expand to the Washington Adventist University Campus in early 2022.

For those who may have missed the opportunity to speak with our interviewers or if you reside outside of the targeted areas, the planning team still wants to hear from you. Take this questionnaire at www.surveymonkey.com/r/takoma-park-mma or by using the QR code shown here.

There will be additional opportunities to engage with the planning process, including both virtual and in-person activities. You can learn more about this plan, including the timeline, the approved scope of work, and how to get involved by visiting montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/downcounty/takoma-park.



Passport Services

Passport services are available by appointment only Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center on the second floor. Appointments are required and can be scheduled by emailing sofiav@takomaparkmd.gov or calling 301-891-7100. Masks are required at the City building. Passport service hours are subject to change without notice. Whenever possible, office closures will be announced on Facebook, Twitter, and the City's website.

For additional information, visit takomaparkmd.gov/services/passports.



Takoma Park Holiday Art Sale Supports Local Artists

The Takoma Park Holiday Art Sale returned for its 15th year at the Takoma Park Community Center on Dec. 4, 2021. The sale featured 25 local artists selling a wide range of original art and crafts, including paintings, photography, sculpture, jewelry, and clothing.

The art sale was the first large event in the Community Center in almost two years due to previous pandemic restrictions. Masks were required, and hundreds of people visited the art sale, which is organized by the City's Arts and Humanities Division with support from the Arts and Humanities Committee.

"It was exciting to hold the art sale again because it's a popular community event that brings artists and the public together," Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith said. "We want to support small local businesses and the creative economy, and this is a fun way to do that."

Local photographer Rob Rudick is a longtime art sale vendor who was happy with the turnout.

"The Holiday Art Sale is a shining example of the community's support for local artists, and it's a premiere showcase for our local talent," he said. "City staff and the Arts and Humanities Committee did a terrific job in selecting the artists and publicizing and staging the event."



Local artists sold a wide range of original art and crafts at the most recent Holiday Art Sale.

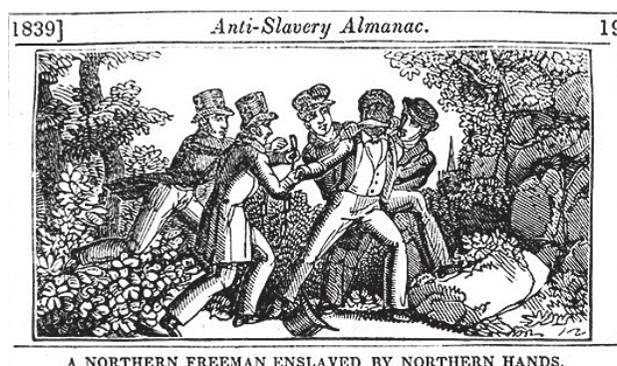
Free Takoma Park Arts Events at the Community Center

Please join us for these free upcoming events in the *Takoma Park Arts* cultural series at the Takoma Park Community Center at 7500 Maple Avenue. You can find more info and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at takomaparkmd.gov/arts.

The Poetry of Migration Poetry Reading Thursday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Three local poets who emigrated to the United States will share their poetry and their experiences as strangers in a new land where they have felt the contrasting tug between the forces of assimilation and their own cultural heritage.

Indran Amirthanayagam will read his poems, which focus on the experiences, dilemmas, and dreams of the migrant. He was born in Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and writes in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole. He has published 20 poetry books and edits the *Beltway Poetry Quarterly*. Luz Stella Mejía is a writer, editor, and marine biologist from Colombia, who has published two poetry books. Vladimir Monge grew up in El Salvador and studied education sciences. He has two published poetry books and is the coordinator of a local group of Latin American migrant poets called *Collectivo Literario Alta Hora de la Noche*.



The Reverse Underground Railroad Lecture

Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

In honor of Black History Month, University of Maryland history professor Richard Bell will share the little-known and horrific history of the "Reverse Underground Railroad." In the decades leading up to the Civil War, free Black children and adults in the North were kidnapped and sold into enslavement in the South.

Bell will talk about the history of the Reverse Underground Railroad, which he researched for his book titled *Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped Into Slavery and Their*

Astonishing Odyssey Home. It is the true story of five Black boys who were kidnapped in Philadelphia in 1825 and smuggled into slavery in the Deep South and their daring attempt to escape and bring their captors to justice.

Lured onto a small ship in Philadelphia with the promise of food and pay, the boys were instead met with blindfolds, ropes, and knives. During four long months, their kidnappers drove them overland into the Cotton Kingdom in the South to be sold as slaves. Determined to resist, the boys formed a tight brotherhood as they struggled to free themselves and find their way home.

Vintage Movie Night: Whitewashing American History

Thursday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

In another *Takoma Park Arts* event celebrating Black History Month, archival film enthusiast Richard Hall will share his curated selection of mid-20th century classroom film clips from an era when the experiences of Black people and Native Americans were almost never seen or heard.

As state legislatures pass new education laws that are reactions against a true accounting of America's racist past, take a journey back in time to see how it was in the *not-so-good-old days* when filmmakers and educators erased the history of minority groups and celebrated white founders and pioneers.

RECREATION

Registration for Winter Classes is open.

TOTS

SPORTS



Tot Sports

Children are introduced to the fundamentals of sports such as soccer and basketball. The goal of this program is to provide the opportunity for children to develop motor skills and nurture their growth socially and emotionally through teamwork and good sportsmanship. Instructor: Recreation Staff

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Ave
3-5 years
6 Week Session
Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
January 29-March 18
\$55

YOUTH

ART

Valentine's Day Gift Making Workshop

Create brightly colored heart shaped ornaments, boxes and other keepsakes for family and friends over two Saturday mornings. Instructor: Caroline MacKinnon
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Art Studio
6 & Up
2 Day Session
Saturdays, 10-11 a.m.
January 29 & February 12
Resident: \$30 / Non-resident: \$40



EXTENDED CARE

Fun Days

Fun Days are offered on specific days when Montgomery County Public Schools are not in session. The program is designed to provide recreational activities for children enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade. Through structured, socially distanced activities, crafts and presenters, there are opportunities for socializing, unwinding, and releasing energy. Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. They must bring masks, a lunch, snacks and labeled water bottle. Activities and performers are subject to change. **Registration is required. You can sign up for one day or all.** Space is limited; sign up early. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of the program.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
5-12 years
Monday, January 24
Tuesday, February 1
Friday, April 1
Monday, May 2
8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Resident: \$50 / Non-resident: \$60



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CITY RESIDENTS

Scholarships that were approved for 2021 have now expired. If you would like to continue receiving the discounted rates toward future enrollments, be sure to reapply for 2022. And if you haven't applied before, now is the time! Visit takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/recreation-scholarships or stop by our office to receive a copy of the application.



DANCE

Ballet & Stretch

A beginning ballet class that focuses on stretching strategies using ballet foundations. Participants will learn ballet terminology, ballet technique and balancing. Instructor: Charonne Butler
Virtual
5-11 years
Saturdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m.
January 29-March 19
Resident: \$35 / Non-resident: \$45



Hip-Hop Dance

Join this virtual Hip Hop Dance Class that focuses on fitness and rhythm. Plus, you get to have lots of fun. These family friendly moves invite you to bring a friend to create, dance and move virtually anywhere. Instructor: Charonne Butler
Virtual
5-11 years
Saturdays, 11:30-12:15 p.m.
January 29-March 19
Resident: \$35 / Non-resident: \$45



SPORTS

Basketball Skills

This class will teach the fundamentals of the sport. Good Sportsmanship will be emphasized. Participants will be provided with excellent coaching. You will learn proper dribbling, shooting and defensive techniques. Instructor: Greg Harris
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Ave
6-12 years
7 Week Session
Saturdays, 12-1 p.m.
January 29-March 12
\$80

TEENS

CAMP

Spring Break P.R.E.P.S. Week

Spring Break P.R.E.P.S. (Planning and Researching for Educational and Professional Success) week is about assisting teens in planning for their future. During this week, teens will be able to participate in discussions to get a sense of life after high school. Whether it's your goal to go to college or pick up a trade, we're going to explore your options. Come with questions, an open mind, and a bag lunch! Before and After care are available for an additional fee.
Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
April 11-15
Resident: \$135 / Non-resident: \$150

DRAMA

Dungeons & Dragons

They creep through the twilight, quiet as shadows muttering a language long forgotten, a language only spoken by ghosts. Use your imagination and storytelling ability in this classic fantasy role-playing game. Roll dice to cast spells and battle monsters. Creativity and cooperation help the group "survive."
Instructor: Dave Burbank
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue

Auditorium

12-18 years
Thursdays, 4-6 p.m.
January 27-February 24
Resident: \$55 / Non-resident: \$65

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Power Hour

Take advantage of our homework power hour focusing on academic support. We are the perfect balance of academics and fun. Students are given quiet time to complete homework or to read. Staff is available to assist and can review the completed assignments. Registration is not required.
Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
Monday-Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Free

Teen Talk Tuesdays

Join Ms. Leicia at 3:30 p.m. for Teen Talk Tuesdays. Grab your seats, and we'll bring the "tea"! Let's talk about fashion, fads, questions, advice, current events, etc. You name it! Some weeks we will have experts or special guests join in on the conversations. For more information, please contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov.
Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Free

Youth Summer Employment Program Interest Meeting

Join us at the SYEP Interest Meeting and learn about this 8-week program, which will begin June 27 and end August 20, 2022. The City of Takoma Park is pleased to announce the return of the City's Summer Youth Employment Program. The purpose of the Summer Youth Employment Program is to provide young people with a summer-long adventure that is more than just a job, but a true learning experience. There are a limited number of meaningful employment opportunities available this year. To register for the Interest Workshop or to find out more information, please visit our website at www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation or call 301-891-7290.
Takoma Park Community Center
Azalea Room
7500 Maple Avenue
16-21 years
Friday, March 11
6-8 p.m.

FITNESS

Capoeira for Teens

Capoeira is a Brazilian dance mixed with martial arts, acrobatics, and music. Through this class students will focus on learning basic corporal techniques of Capoeira, including, acrobatics, defense, and attack movements. Students will also learn the rhythms and songs necessary for Capoeira, including drums, tambourine, and other native Brazilian instruments.
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
Mondays, 3:45 p.m.-4:45 p.m.
January 31-April 4
Resident: \$20 / Non-resident: \$30

Zumba for Teens

Zumba classes for teens feature kid-friendly routines based on original Zumba® choreography. We break down the steps, add games, activities, and cultural exploration elements into the class structure. Zumba for Teens helps them develop a healthy lifestyle and incorporate fitness as a natural part of their lives by making fitness fun. Classes incorporate key childhood development elements like leadership, respect, teamwork, confidence, self-esteem, memory, creativity, coordination, cultural awareness.
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
Wednesdays, 3:45 p.m.-4:45 p.m.
February 8-April 5
Resident: \$20 / Non-resident: \$30

Commit 2 B Fit

Get your yoga mat and water bottles and join us Saturday mornings at 11:30 a.m. for a fun and energized session to work out and get fit. Limited spaces available; registration required. For more information, please contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov.
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
January 29-April 2
Resident: \$20 / Non-resident: \$30

ADULT

ART

Make a tile-Paint a tile

This class will be making tiles and decorating bought bisque tiles. The tiles will be made and designed of flowers or leaves or lace pressed into the clay. Many objects can be used; it's-the student's choice. The bisque tiles will be painted, stamped and/or stenciled. The instructor will have many of these to be used. The tiles will be fired and glazed, and colorful permanent tiles will be taken home. There will be a \$10 materials fee that will be due to the instructor on the first day of class for clay, boards, glazes, and bisque tiles. Instructor: Alice Sims
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Art Studio
16 & Up
Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
February 12-March 12
Resident: \$20 / Non-resident: \$30
Materials Fee: \$10



Painting Exploration

In this beginner class, participants are encouraged to try different materials and methods, as well as explore some of the basic elements of design in their work. Participants will try still life and landscape as well as painting from their imaginations. We will examine paintings by other artists and give helpful feedback to one another in a comfortable setting. Grab a brush and come by the studio to explore painting! A nonrefundable \$35 materials fee is due to the instructor on the 1st day of class. Instructor: Caroline MacKinnon
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Art Studio
16 & Up
Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
January 28-March 4
Resident: \$140 / Non-resident: \$160
Materials Fee: \$35



FITNESS

Afrobeat/Afro-Ndombolo Dance Class

A contemporary Afro Dance company specializing in African dancing, Zuri Sana'a DanXercise's mission is to bring you joy and memories through the art of dance. Zuri Sana'a DanXercise combines hip hop, salsa, dancehall, contemporary and African dance moves within



RECREATION

Full listing of winter classes available in the Winter 2022 City Guide inserted with this issue of the newsletter.

RECREATION

■ From page 6

our choreography to create a memorable workout experience. Our moves are feasible and suitable for all ages. Participants will be able to shred calories and learn fun choreography all in one class. Instructor: Khady N'Diaye
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 & Up
Thursdays, 7–8 p.m.
January 27–March 31
Resident: \$60 / Non-resident: \$70

Body Works Plus Abs

Body Works Plus Abs is a toning exercise class where you tone in a high repetition, light dumbbell workout that will take you through a variety of exercises while you move to the beat of the music. This class improves muscle tone, posture, balance, and strength. It is a true total body workout. Participants will need to bring light dumbbells and exercise mats to the class. Instructor: Akou Basse
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 & Up
Fridays, 6–7 p.m.
January 28–March 4
Resident: \$60 / Non-resident: \$70



Iyengar Yoga for Beginners (Hybrid)

This class will introduce you to Yoga as taught by the Iyengar Method. This method opens the practice of yoga for everyone. The use of props and a step-by-step approach teaches alignment and brings strength and flexibility. The basic postures are introduced, and awareness is created in the whole body. As awareness of every part of the body is felt, energy is generated, and the breath is engaged. The aim is to bring into alignment the different parts of the body to associate the breath and mind and release tension and stress. Instructor: Tehseen Chettri
This class will be offered as a hybrid. You can attend the class in-person or via Zoom.com on the same day at the same time.



Takoma Park Community Center/Virtual
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Ave
16 & Up
Wednesdays 6–7:15 p.m.
January 26–March 30
Resident: \$120 / Non-resident: \$140
Drop-In: \$15

Moonlight Qi Gong II

Moonlight Qi Gong enhances the quiet, gentle, peaceful yin side of our energy in the winter months, balancing the warm, active, bright sunlight yang energy. These six beautiful movement forms strengthen and align the body, focus the mind, reducing stress and tension while bringing the body and mind together in the breath. No experience necessary. Instructor: Patrick Smith
Virtual
18 & Up
Tuesdays, 7–7:30 p.m.
January 25–March 15
Resident: \$25 / Non-resident: \$35



Spirit Group Fitness - Starting back in-person!

A functional fitness class for all abilities. SPIRIT Fitness invites participants with and without developmental disabilities. Class format focuses on functional fitness to improve and maintain ability to easily complete daily living activities. Instructor: Spirit Club
Takoma Park Community Center
Lilac Room
7500 Maple Ave
16 & Up
Wednesdays, 7–8 p.m.
January 26–March 30
Free

Yassa

Yassa means joy. Yassa is designed to get your heart rate up and boost your cardio endurance while having tons of fun and enjoying international music. Yassa is fun, energetic and most of all keeps you in great shape. Let's Yassa! Instructor: Akou Basse
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Ave
16 and up
6 Week Session
Wednesdays, 6:45–7:45 p.m.
January 26–March 15
\$60

Zumba

Zumba is a fitness program that combines Latin and international music with danced moves. Zumba routines incorporate interval training, alternating fast and slow rhythms to help improve cardiovascular fitness. No equipment needed for this class. Instructor: Akou Basse
Takoma Park Community Center



Dance Studio

7500 Maple Avenue
16 & Up
Saturdays, 10:15–11:15 a.m.
January 29–March 5
Resident: \$65 / Non-Resident: \$75

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Writing Life Stories

Do you want to share important life experiences through your writing? Our stories are part of what makes us human. Whether you are a lifelong writer or a beginner, this class is for you. I will help you to jump-start your memories, organize your ideas and edit your work. We use the book *Writing the Memoir* by Judith Barrington. Bring a notebook to each class and be ready to have fun! Instructor: Barbara Rosenblatt
Virtual
18 & Up
Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.
January 26–March 16
Resident: \$90 / Non-resident: \$100



MULTIMEDIA

Taming Your Digital Photos

This class will show you how to save, organize, restore, and share family photos. You probably have printed photographs in albums and boxes, as well as some taken with a smart phone or a digital camera. Do you know where your photos are, when and where they were taken? We will review basic digital editing on photos taken with a digital camera, including your smart phone. Smart phones can

RECREATION □ Page 9

A Visual Feast of the Arts

Holidays are over, it's cold outside with dreary skies, and you're ready to lift your spirits and get rid of the winter blahs. How about a visual feast of the arts? Washington, DC museums and galleries are ready for you with a variety of fascinating exhibits. Here's a sampling below. Admission is free unless noted otherwise.

***David Driskell: Icons of Nature and History – Through Jan. 9, 2022**

Alma W. Thomas: Everything is Beautiful – Through Jan. 23, 2022

Tuesday – Sunday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

The Phillips Collection, 1600 21st Street NW, Washington, DC

Along with fellow Howard University graduate Alma Thomas, David Driskell is essential to the story of American art through this comprehensive look at the artist's collages, paintings, drawings, and prints. In the exhibition *Everything is Beautiful* traces Alma Thomas's trek from Georgia to DC and beyond through artworks and archival assets, showcasing the artist's wide-reaching influence and dynamic artistic practices.

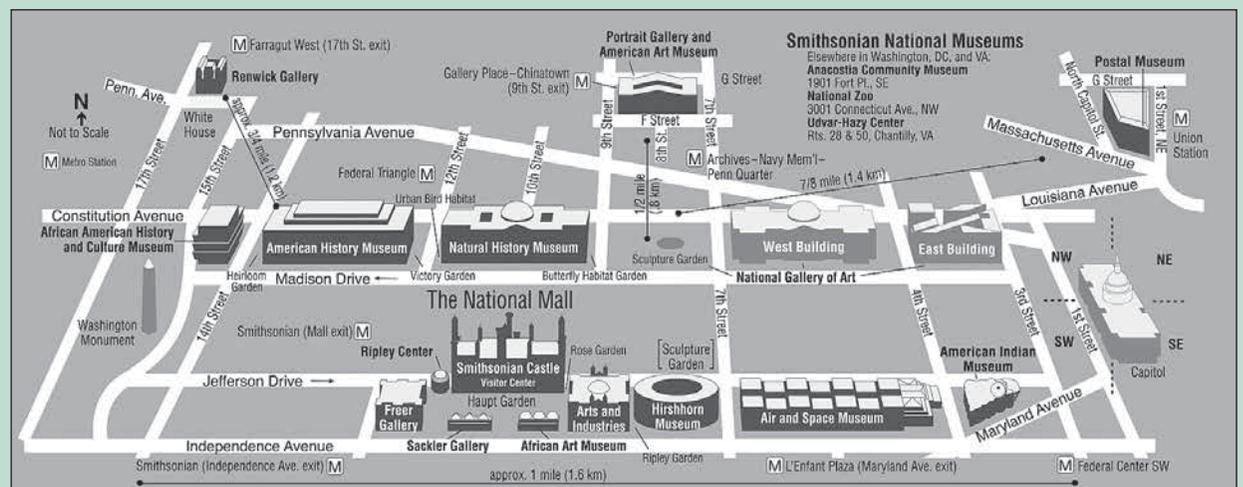
*Tickets required.

Welcome Home: A Portrait of East Baltimore, 1975–1980 – Through Jan. 17, 2022

Wednesday – Sunday, 11:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Smithsonian American Art Museum, 8th and G Streets NW, Washington, DC

Photographers – Elinor Cahn, Joan Clark Netherwood and Linda Rich – captured East Baltimore for a five-year stretch from 1975 to 1980 including celebrations, luncheons, homes, businesses, and the everyday strife the community faced.



Hung Liu: Portraits of Promised Lands – Through Jan. 17, 2022

Wednesday – Sunday, 11:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

National Portrait Gallery, 8th and G Streets NW, Washington, DC 20004

For the first time, a museum focuses on the portraiture work of visionary Chinese American artist Hung Liu in this exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery. The exhibit is in memoriam of Liu, who tragically passed away in 2021. Her multilayered paintings, often sourced from photographs, are a feast for the eyes and mind.

The New Woman Behind the Camera – Through Jan. 30, 2022

Open 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily

National Gallery of Art, 6th Street & Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC

Breathtaking photographs from more than 120 women photographers around the world. See beautiful images from these trailblazers who embodied a creative

and confident spirit and whose work showed unique new perspectives from the 1920s to the 1950s.

New Glass Now – Through March 6, 2022

Wednesday – Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Renwick Gallery, Pennsylvania Avenue at 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20006

Objects, videos, installations, and performances from 50 different artists in 23 countries, allowing visitors to marvel at the tremendous skill of contemporary glassmaking.

Toyin Ojih Odutola: A Countervailing Theory – Through April 3, 2022

Wednesday – Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden, Independence Avenue & 7th Street NW, Washington, DC 20560

Panel by panel, pastels reveal a myth conceived by Odutola, reminding one of a mammoth graphic novel. The installation spans the entirety of the Museum's circular inner galleries on its second floor.

LIBRARY



Director's Column Will Return

Happy New Year, Takoma Park! This month and next, the library is publishing a special two-part report on information literacy: the skills you need to tell “good” information from “bad.” Information literacy is an immensely important issue today, and this library, along with many other libraries, wants to equip you with the best tools for discerning the massive quantities of information that are thrown at us every day. So that there is space in this newsletter for that article, I’m giving over my column inches to it. It’s that important.

—Jessica Jones



James Madison Building, Library of Congress

Information Literacy: A Special Report from the Takoma Park Maryland Library, Part One

By Anne LeVeque and Jill Raymond

Not long ago, a library patron asked for help in finding information about Critical Race Theory (CRT). The patron had searched online using Google and said that all the results, “were negative.” We helped the patron find unbiased information about CRT, including a clear definition of it. There is a huge amount of misinformation and disinformation about CRT being bandied about in the public square, not just on social media but in school board meetings, state legislatures, and the courts. Many of these debates are heated and have led to death threats against school board members.

The consequences of poor information literacy can be dire. In the age of COVID, people have literally died because they believed incorrect information about the disease, how to prevent spreading it, how to treat it, and, of course, vaccinations which prevent it. Not only that, but the misinformation around COVID has led to significant financial losses in our economy. The Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security published a report in October 2021 estimating that the cost of COVID vaccine misinformation and disinformation is between \$50 and \$300 million dollars per day since May 2021, and that is

just in the United States. Global figures are much higher. At press time, the omicron variant has just emerged, and we may see this figure increase significantly.

First, let’s start with some definitions: What is misinformation and what is disinformation, and what is the difference? The meanings are very close. Both terms refer to false information. Misinformation refers to false information, such as false rumors, misunderstanding of information, and misleading use of facts. Disinformation is like misinformation; false information is used deliberately and in an organized fashion. The term has its origins in the Cold War era and originally referred to a type of propaganda, particularly government-sponsored propaganda. The word “disinformation” has come to mean any organized campaign of false information, whether government-sponsored or not. Think of it as the deliberate intent to convey an untruth or to persuade people of an untruth for the purpose of achieving some goal of the perpetrator’s.

Information literacy is the ability to distinguish reliable information from mis- and disinformation. The term arose in the 1980s in the context of libraries and refers to the ability to evaluate information criti-

Hours and Calendar

Library hours are:
Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday-Sunday 12 – 6 p.m.

Computer Center hours are:
Monday-Thursday 12 – 8 p.m.
Friday-Sunday 12 – 6 p.m.

The library and Computer Center will be closed in honor of Martin Luther King Jr’s birthday on Sunday, January 16 and Monday, January 17.

Masks are required for all indoor activities, and we are asking patrons to limit their time in the library building. For those who prefer not to come indoors, Books-to-Go is continuing, and the book return bin is still always open.

CALENDAR

We’re continuing to offer many great library programs – weekly and monthly -- via Zoom. To participate, go to <https://zoom.us>. Click on “Join a Meeting” and put in the Meeting ID (and Meeting password, if any) listed with each program. Registration isn’t required for these programs, but, if you are registered, we will send reminders as well as notices of any changes or cancellations. To register, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryprograms. Please refresh your browser first to ensure you get the most updated information. Also, please make sure you register for the “Zoom” version of these programs.

PROGRAMS: To keep up with all our programs, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents.

Zoom Circle Time: Join Ms. Kati every Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. for an online Circle Time via Zoom! To

participate, go to <https://zoom.us>. Click on “Join a Meeting.” Then put in this Meeting ID: 995-4901-8825 and Meeting Password: 178851. At Circle Time, we sing songs, have fun with fingerplays and rhymes, and do lots of dancing and movement exercises. We read one book in the middle of the program.

Zoom Comics Jam: Once a month, generally on the second Wednesday at 4 p.m. The next date is January XX. Please register for Zoom Comics Jam at www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents; we’ll send an email with the next date to all registered. The Meeting ID for Zoom Comics Jam is 734-913-6285. No Meeting Password needed.

Zoom Spanish Circle Time: Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. To participate in Zoom Spanish Circle Time, go to: <https://zoom.us>. Then put in Meeting ID: 959-5178-5847 and Meeting Password: 793725.

Zoom Scribbler’s Cabal: Fridays at 4 p.m. Meeting ID is 734-913-6285 (same as Comics Jam), no Meeting Password needed.

Listen to this!

By Kati Nolfi, Children’s Librarian

Sawbones: A Marital Tour of Misguided Medicine

Dr. Sydnee McElroy is a family doctor, and Justin McElroy is her funny everyman husband. Both are podcast royalty. Aside from the sometimes-gross details, Sawbones is a wholesome show, for those of us with overhearing children. It occupies a sweet spot for me. It is informational, but not boring and not depressing. Sydnee and Justin balance each other extremely well. The format is usually the same: Syd researches the history and medical (mis)applications of IV cocktails or vaping or homeopathy or trepanation, etc. and debunks them as either innocuous but not helpful or downright harmful. The episodes are slowly returning to the wacky medical history of pre-COVID time, but the show has covered subjects like masking, quarantine, and pandemics for the past year and a half. Don’t drill a hole in your head!

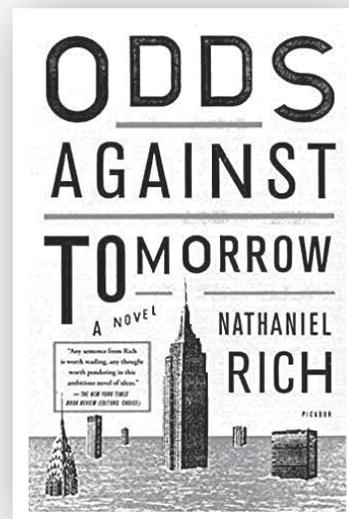


News from the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library

By Tim Rahn

Friends Book Group Discussion

The Friends Book Group discussion of *Odds Against Tomorrow* by Nathaniel Rich will take place on January 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room of the Community Center. The library has several copies, and it’s also available as an audiobook from the library’s streaming service Hoopla.



Spring 2022 Big Book Club

The FTPML Big Book Club will read *Palace Walk* by the Egyptian novelist Naguib Mahfouz this spring. There will be three or four sessions of discussion, which will include an introductory presentation. FTPML will announce the dates and location in next month’s newsletter and the fortnightly Takoma Insider. The book

INFORMATION LITERACY

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cally to determine its authenticity, veracity, and purpose. In this article, we hope to convey information about some of the tools available to help you do that.

Types and Sources of Misinformation

We all pass around misinformation. We all like to be “in the know.” Sometimes an otherwise reliable source we trust has made an error, and we have passed that on in casual conversation or on social media.

One source of misinformation is our own memory. Professional investigators know that the memories of eyewitnesses to crimes or other events are notoriously unreliable, some have even tweaked their interviewing techniques appropriately.

Are there things you would like to be true, but you suspect probably are not, like horoscopes? Are you ever in arguments with friends about a scandal involving a sports figure or celebrity? You may not want to think this person guilty of serious moral failings, but the credible evidence suggests that maybe they are.

Psychologists know that people too often believe what they want to think is true for emotional reasons. This is called “confirmation bias.” People often want to believe something just because they think large numbers of other people think it’s true. This can bring about something called the Mandela Effect in which large numbers of people believe that something happened (the death of Nelson Mandela in prison in the 1980s, when in fact he died in 2013 after serving as president of South Africa) that didn’t occur.

Another source of misinformation is “spin.” Spin is the manipulation of information for a particular purpose. It is not necessarily inaccurate, but it is info that

is packaged in such a way as to achieve a specific reaction in listeners/readers. Relevant details may be left out deliberately or irrelevant ones disproportionately emphasized. The best example of this is television commercials. All of us boast, exaggerate, or try to “spin” the facts if, for instance, we are embarrassed about something. But for serious and reliable information based on facts *as society currently has the tools to discern them*, casual assertions cannot be taken at face value.

An extreme sort of spin is clickbait. Clickbait is not necessarily incorrect, but it is designed to tempt. It screams something phrased to enrage, terrify, offend, or otherwise make people put down what they’re doing and look at something they would otherwise ignore. Whenever this is the case, we must look at what interest is being served here. Most clickbait articles are on sites that are paid “per click,” so there is a financial interest in getting people to read these lurid articles.

Satire is such an enormous source of misinformation that some social media platforms have required it to be tagged as such. A well-written satire is not always discernible as comedy. Three centuries ago, Johnathan Swift wrote “A Modest Proposal,” which suggests that the poor in Ireland could survive by eating their children. Scholars debate Swift’s precise target, but it certainly served to excoriate British policy towards the Irish.

Today, Alexandra Petri writes columns for the Washington Post with headlines like, “Big Bird is a Communist.” But as things get passed around on the internet, often without identifying source details, some people mistake satire for sincere argument, and may be inclined to join up with a movement that isn’t real. Is Big Bird a communist? Another example is in the 1990s, the satirical news website *The Onion* ran a joke article saying that

J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter books, was encouraging children to worship Satan. This article was spread among people who believed it to be a real news article and evidence that the Harry Potter books were Satanic. Those who spread the article, presenting it as real, whether they knew it was satire, have spread misinformation.

The founders of America knew that a mass of people could be manipulated into an angry mob capable of violent behavior none of the individuals would separately, having thought about it, engage in. What they feared is really a combination of disinformation—on the part of the perpetrator, who has something to gain—and misinformation being passed along among members of a crowd that is emotionally primed to believe what the perpetrator is telling them. And that’s why the founders knew the framework of checks and balances they devised was not by itself sufficient for protecting democratic governance. An educated and knowledgeable populace was necessary. Inscribed on the Library of Congress building named for him is James Madison’s warning: “Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.”

Library Director Jessica Jones contributed to this article. Next month’s article will discuss how to tell reliable information from misinformation.

A Note to Readers: You can find references, footnotes, and some expanded content on the library website, including links to reliable sources of information along with some amusing illustrations and memes. Go to www.takomapark.info for more information.

BOOK CLUB

■ From page 8

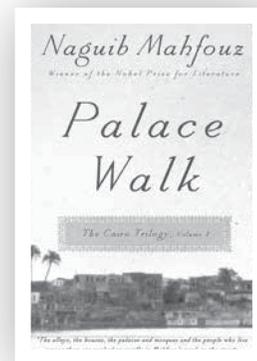
is available as an audiobook on Hoopla, and the library will have several copies.

Palace Walk is the first volume of Mahfouz’s Cairo Trilogy, which is probably the best-known work of the prolific writer. Set in Cairo from 1917 to 1919, *Palace Walk* is the story of a family dominated by patriarch, al-Sayyid Ahmad. While al-Sayyid Ahmad expects his wife, three sons, and two daughters to strictly observe the Muslim faith, he conducts affairs and drinks in apparent disdain of his faith.

The hypocrisy of al-Sayyid Ahmad and the tempestuous relationships within the family come to a head during and after the wedding of al-Sayyid Ahmad’s youngest daughter Aisha. The novel reflects the tension occurring in politics and society that leads to the Egyptian Revolution of 1919.

Mahfouz won the 1988 Nobel Prize for literature. He published 35 novels and more than 300 short stories in a career that spanned more than seven decades. At the time of its translation to English, *Publishers Weekly* wrote of *Palace Walk* that, “Mahfouz is a master at building up dramatic scenes and at portraying complex characters in depth.”

If you are interested in the discussions and you do not receive Big Book Club announcements, write to ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com for information on how to join.



RECREATION

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improve the exposure, contrast, and color. More advanced editing is possible with Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop. The instructor has a special interest in restoring old family photos. As part of the class, you will learn how to: 1) Scan and save treasured photographs and color slides. You will have the opportunity to scan at each class meeting. 2) Restore old photos that have faded, darkened, or lost their original colors. 3) Digitize those old photos will make it possible to remove cracks, tears, and dirt. Instructor: Barry Hinderstein
Takoma Park Community Center
Multi Media Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
18 & Up
Tuesdays, 7–9 p.m.
January 25-March 15
Resident: \$25 / Non-resident: \$35

55+

DROP-IN

Game Room Open Play

The game room is available for adults aged 55 and older to play pool, table tennis, basketball arcade and other active games.
Takoma Park Community Center
Game Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 & Up
Ongoing
Mondays: 9 a.m.–11:45 a.m.
Tuesday-Friday: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturdays: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Free

Basketball Open Play

Don’t worry about the cold weather and join your neighbors and friends for basketball practice. Drop-in: no registration is required. A free senior fitness pass is required.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Gymnasium
55 & Up
Thursdays, 12–2 p.m.
Free with pass



Walking Group

Don’t worry about the cold weather and join your neighbors and friends for indoor lap walking. Drop-in: no registration is required. A free senior fitness pass is required.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Gymnasium
55 & Up
Tuesdays, 1:15–2 p.m.
Free with pass

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Computer Skills for Seniors

This class will offer instruction in basic computer skills, including email, safe internet browsing, sending, and receiving photos, using word processing applications and more. A current Takoma Park Maryland Library card is required to access the computers and participate in this class. Limit 4 spaces. Instructor: Anne LeVeque
Takoma Park Community Center
Computer Room A
7500 Maple Avenue
55 & Up
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
January 26-February 16
\$5

FITNESS

Foundational Fitness

The program is designed to enhance strength; decrease fall risks; increase physical fitness level; improve cardiovascular capacity and range of motion; and enhance general sense of well-being. Class utilizes a high-back chair, light hand weights, and/or a resistance tube. Equipment is not provided. Have a towel and water bottle nearby. Registration is required for this virtual zoom class. Instructor: Michael Williams
Virtual
55 & Up
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10–11 a.m.
January 25-March 24
\$5



Enhance Your Fitness

A great total body workout using low-impact aerobic movement and gentle resistance training, this class focuses on increasing strength, balance and flexibility through stretching, breathing, core training and proper posture alignment using standing and seated exercises including warm-up and cool down routines. Registration is required for this virtual zoom class. Instructor: Adriene Buist
Virtual
55 & Up
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Room
Tuesdays, 8:45–9:45 a.m.
January 25-March 22
\$5

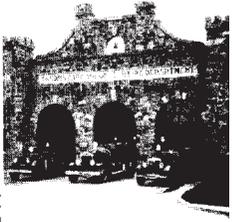


Yoga for 55+

This class is about the gentle flow of yoga poses modified to an individual’s needs depending on their balance level. Improve balance, flexibility, posture, and stamina and energize mind and spirit for better health and well-being. No experience needed. Students must bring their own yoga mats.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Gymnasium
55 & Up
Tuesdays, 12–1 p.m.
January 25-March 22
\$5

Yoga for Healthy Aging

This class helps build strength, endurance, flexibility, and range-of-motion and improve posture and balance, and aids in preventing/reversing bone loss related to osteoporosis using seated, standing, and floor poses and breathing and relaxation techniques. Students need to provide their own yoga sticky mats, a yoga belt (or equivalent, e.g., a necktie), a tennis ball, and preferably a yoga block and blanket. Instructor: Carol Mermey
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
55 & Up
Fridays, 12–1 p.m.
January 28-March 25
\$5



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

Turkey Dinners for Families in Need at Thanksgiving

For the 27th consecutive year, the Takoma Park VFD and Takoma Park Lions Club have been providing complete turkey dinners purchased at Safeway, each meal serves six to eight people. Thanks to Our Lady of Sorrows and Grace Methodist Church for assisting with families.



Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of December 29, 2021, 60 people have died in fires compared to 51 in 2020.

Hot vehicle deaths

As of December 29, 2021, 23 children have died in hot vehicles across the country. Grand total to 906 since 1998. Just because we are into fall and winter, deaths to children can still happen in your vehicle. So, when you leave your vehicle, make sure everyone goes with you. Also, lock it!



Meet the delivery crew: (Left to right) TPVFD Jim Jarboe, TPLC/PDG Mike Bigler, TPVFD members Andrew Willey, Ariel Cruz, Auxiliary President Tina Willey, and Chaplain Dave Hooker; Takoma Park Councilmember Terry Seamens and granddaughter Chyanna, they also assisted.

Yes, We Can Be Prepared and Be Resilient

By Claudine Schweber, Co-chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee

Yes, we have had to deal with a big challenge these past two years: COVID. We have helped our neighbors, friends and family and have received help. We've adapted to the need for masks and vaccines and protecting children, the elderly, and disabled. While COVID and its variants continue to demand our vigilance, we also need to be ready this winter for power outages, snow blasts, and new threats.



First, help for new danger! — Catalytic Converters. What is a converter? This is a metal attachment under the car, that looks like a small muffler, made of expensive metals. Depending on the metals, each converter is worth \$50–\$250. Cars built since 1980 with a motor have this converter.

Help is available: Takoma Park police offer “Etch and Catch” Program to mark the converter and make sale/profit difficult in collaboration with RLS and Lowe’s. The car gets a bright yellow sticker that reads, “This vehicle’s catalytic converter has been etched by the Takoma Park Police Dept.” To make an appointment, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/services-and-programs or call 301-270-4418. This service is free.

Here are some questions about winter preparedness that we’ve received from residents and their answers:

Question: The power went out during the heavy winds recently; I was totally in the dark. What should I do if this happens again? A) wander outside looking for lighted area; B) know where there are working flashlights, battery lanterns, fresh batteries and keep a working flashlight nearby; C) light candles, they look so pretty D) search drawers and closets for flashlight batteries; I know I have them somewhere.

Answer: B) Keep at least one working flashlight on all floors with extra batteries and make sure everyone knows where they are. No lighted candles: they are a fire danger.

Question: I’m worried about snow because I cannot shovel my side-

walks or the street, which I know is required in Takoma Park. I’m 66, live alone and my right side is immobile due to an accident last year. My neighbor said there are “angels” in Takoma Park who do this. Am I losing my hearing and my sanity?

Answer: Your hearing is fine and so is your sanity—Takoma Park’s “Snow Angels” can dig you out. These “angels” are Takoma Middle School Students in the Difference Makers Club working with the city of Takoma Park. Note that the program operates on days the students are out of school and when there is two inches or more of snow. You fit the qualifications: Takoma Park resident; are 55 or older or have a disability; have no one at home who can help with shoveling. However, the 2021-22 list is full, so get on the waiting list ASAP. Contact Paula Lisowski, seniors program manager, at 301-891-7280 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov. See takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation/snow-angels.

Question: I must drive home from work at night. I haven’t ever done this on a regular basis. The other night, I almost hit an oncoming car. Is it true that I can do something to limit the danger, glare and accidents?

Answer: First, it’s time to clean up your act. Clean your front/back windshields; dirty ones can impact the light beams causing glare from incoming cars; second, make sure your headlights are clean—dirty ones can not only affect your visibility but also create glare for oncoming cars. Second, make sure your headlights are properly aligned, so they face straight ahead; too high or too low beams can limit your visibility or blind oncoming drivers.

Take care of these items, and you can say, “Yes, we can.” with confidence.

Contact us at 301-8891-7126 or tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov. Join us once a month for “Dear Bea(trice) Prepared” on Talk of Takoma, WOWD/LP radio 94.3, Sundays 1–3 p.m.



Editor's note

English:

Look for this icon next to newsletter articles that you can read online in other languages using the translation feature on the City of Takoma Park’s website. After clicking on the link for the article, look in the upper right hand corner of the web page next to the navigation bar, and select the language you want using the drop-down box.

French:

Recherchez cette icône à côté des articles du bulletin que

vous pouvez lire en ligne dans d’autres langues à l’aide de la fonction de traduction disponible sur le site Web de la ville de Takoma Park. Après avoir cliqué sur le lien de l’article, regardez dans le coin supérieur droit de la page Web à côté de la barre de navigation, puis sélectionnez la langue souhaitée à l’aide du menu déroulant.

Spanish:

Busque este ícono junto a los artículos del boletín que puede leer en línea en otros idiomas usando

la función de traducción en el sitio web de la Ciudad de Takoma Park. Después de hacer clic en el enlace del artículo, busque en la esquina superior derecha de la página web junto a la barra de navegación y seleccione el idioma que desee con el cuadro desplegable.

Amharic:

ከታች ያለውን ደህንነት ደረጃ ላይ የዘረዘሩት አርዳኞች ለሌሎች ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታክሚ ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን ባህሪ የገገርክ ድር ጣቢያ ጠቀስዎትኝ በሆነ ለሌሎች አገሮች ላይ ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥንግ ላይ ታስባለች የአሰሳ አዎሊን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልቋይ ሳጥን።

Docs in Progress Sets Its Lens on the Future

By Sean Gossard

For Docs in Progress, it's been a pretty wild ride the past few years, with some major changes planned by the Silver Spring-based film organization that were turned upside down by the COVID-19 pandemic.

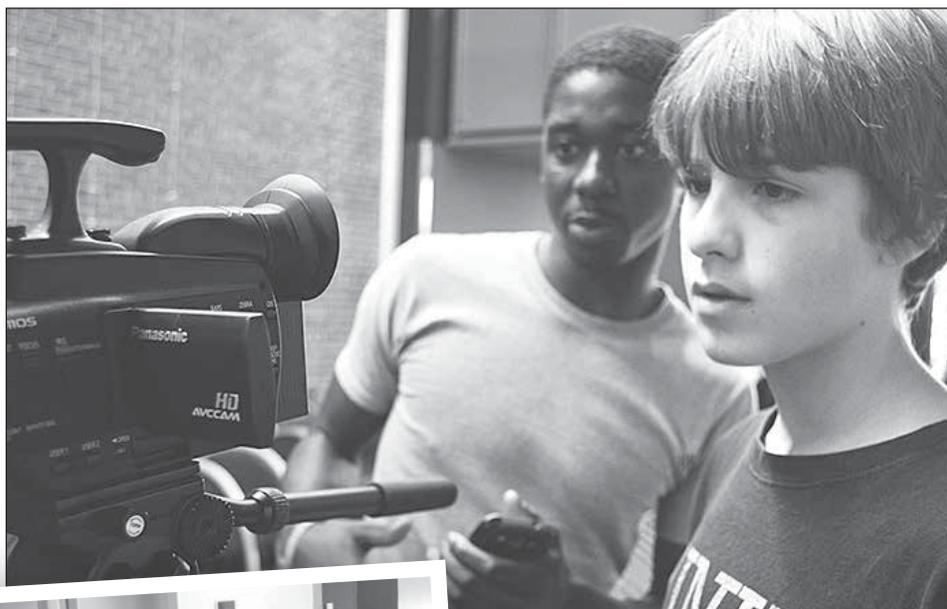
"We had a lot of internal changes during the pandemic and before," says Docs in Progress executive director Lynn O'Connell. "Our fabulous founder Erica Ginsberg stepped down in 2019 and Docs in Progress also started moving into its new offices in Silver Spring in partnership with Montgomery County's Housing Opportunities Commission."

Docs in Progress, which is dedicated to helping local filmmakers, was selected as one of only three nonprofits to occupy ground floor space in Alexander House in downtown Silver Spring. The new facility features a state-of-the-art education center, as well as a new screening room with more than 50 seats.

Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the group had to delay the opening ceremony of their new facility for nearly two years. They currently plan on having a ribbon-cutting ceremony in March of 2022 along with their Community Film Festival.

Along with the delay in moving into their new home, Docs in Progress also had to figure out how to adjust to a world with social distancing and quarantines.

"During COVID, we switched over to all digital," says O'Connell, who joined Docs in Progress in the beginning of 2021. "It has not been easy, any arts organization has struggled because it is



Above: Docs In Progress' mission is to educate, inspire, and transform the way people view their world through documentary film.



At left: Silver Spring-based nonprofit Docs in Progress has classes for aspiring filmmakers of all ages.

Prince George's filmmaker Jason Green. The film tells the story of how three racially-segregated Methodist churches – two white and one black – decided to merge in the wake of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in 1968.

"It was very local and very well attended," said O'Connell. "We've also continued our trailer nights. These are free and everyone is welcome to share their ideas to help the filmmaker move their film along to completion."

Docs in Progress has also managed to keep classes going virtually during the pandemic. "We've done classes for the community on how to put these films together," says O'Connell. "We also do a teen workshop and did one around the theme 'My Life During COVID.' One stu-

difficulty to build community if you can only do it online and not be in the same room as other people. On the other hand, the positive of all this is that we learned that it is possible to do great things and reach more people through the power of online."

Those digital events still include screening new documentaries by local filmmakers, including the group's Silver Screenings series. This year, they featured the documentary "Finding Fellowship" by

dent did a documentary on a local food pantry in Montgomery County and another did one on her father who opened a restaurant that closed during COVID."

They also have a few classes coming up this fall, including ones for beginners on photography and other more advanced classes on getting documentaries into film festivals and how to fundraise and write scripts.

O'Connell says they plan to return to in-person screenings and classes next year with the opening of their new facility, but will also have classes and screenings available virtually. She says the Community Film Festival will be both in-person and virtual with films and Q&A panels from local filmmakers.

Docs in Progress also partnered with the Kennedy Center on an initiative to get more people with disabilities into the film industry.

O'Connell says that Docs in Progress was approached by Day Al-Mohamed, a disabilities attorney and Docs in Progress board member, who is in a wheel chair and blind, about making a documentary about disabilities. Her series "Renegades" was released on American Masters PBS in July.

"We discovered a huge need to get people with disabilities in the filmmaking industry," O'Connell says.

O'Connell says that Docs in Progress plans on using the lessons it learned during the pandemic to help it grow and reach new audiences in the future.

"When we look to 2022 and beyond we'll focus more on people online who may not be able to get to Silver Spring or may not be able to travel," she says "We'll use what we learned going forward."

For updates or to sign up for Docs in Progress screenings or classes, visit www.docsinprogress.org or facebook.com/docsinprogress.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Five Questions for Ira Kowler, Economic Development Manager

Before joining the staff of the City of Takoma Park, Ira Kowler was Geographic Team Director at the City of Baltimore Development Corporation. What brings him to Takoma Park? He's "excited by the opportunity to work in local government at a smaller scale, where you can make a greater day-to-day impact." For him community means "all the people who impact the quality of your life, whether you know them or not."

Here is Ira's take on our five questions for new staff members.

- Favorite Place/Activity in Takoma Park:** With two farmer's markets, you can get (almost) all your shopping done without the grocery store.
- Best Thing about Working in Takoma Park:** How easy it is to get around the community without my car
- What's on Your Desk Right Now:** A cup of coffee, the Housing & Economic Development Strategic Plan, a Ward Map, and a whole bunch of sticky notes

- What You Do in Your "Spare Time":** I'm a big soccer fan, so most weekend mornings you can find me watching an Arsenal game, trying not to wake anyone up!
- Best Advice You Ever Got (and from who):** "Whenever you cook bacon, always make an extra strip" — My wife

Fun Facts

Most Played Song on His Playlist: Take a Chance on Me by ABBA

How He Takes His Coffee: Shot of espresso before I leave the house, black coffee at the office

One Thing He Wants Residents to Know About Him: My cats have names that are paw-sitively purr-fect cat-puns. Can you guess them?



Ira Kowler at work and play



CITY CAREERS

The City of Takoma Park recruiting includes all career staff, part time or temporary staff, interns, and more. The list of open positions changes frequently, so please check takomaparkmd.gov/careers regularly for up-to-date information. The most recent available positions are:

- **Crime Analyst** responsible for the collection, collation, analysis, and dissemination of information related to crimes occurring in and around Takoma Park.
- **Childcare Director** responsible for planning, leading, and conducting recreation activities for Morning Addition & Afternoon Addition at the Community Center and Before and After the Bell at the Recreation Center.
- **Recreation Program Leader II** to plan and administer all aspects of the Teen Lounge between 2–7 p.m., Mondays through Fridays for the remainder of the school year.
- **Facilities Maintenance Supervisor** to perform skilled work in the repair and maintenance of City facilities and equipment and oversee the day-to-day operations of the Building Maintenance and Custodian divisions.



Applications, and details about these and other open positions can be found at takomaparkmd.gov/careers.

The City of Takoma Park is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. We strive to be a diverse workforce that is representative of the residents we serve and the area in which we live. We are dedicated to creating an inclusive environment where employees of diverse backgrounds can thrive and make a positive impact in the services we provide.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CITY RESIDENTS

Scholarships that were approved for 2021 will expire at the end of December 2021. If you would like to continue receiving the discounted rates toward future enrollments, be sure to reapply for 2022. And if you haven't applied before, now is the time! Visit takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/recreation-scholarships/ or stop by our office to receive a copy of the application.



COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

MLK Week of Service

January 15 - 22

The Volunteer Center's annual MLK Day of Service event continues to be virtual and spans a week again this year, with a variety of home-based and safely distanced service opportunities, January 15-22, 2021. Projects range from activities like writing letters to isolated seniors to creating fleece blankets for foster children. Choose to participate in one or many! They all help others in our community. MCPS students can earn SSL hours for most service projects except donations. Details outlined within each opportunity. For more information, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/volunteers/MLK.html.

VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENT

The Critical Role of Nutrition in Health

Thursday, January 27, 2 – 3 p.m.

Virtual Event

Are you curious—and maybe confused—about the many various diet recommendations in the media? Paleo, gluten-free, keto, Mediterranean, flexitarian, vegetarian, vegan? Plant-based nutrition has been gathering increasing support. Village of Takoma Park is excited to invite you to join them for a presentation by Dr. Neal Barnard to learn about this approach to eating, its advantages, and how you can incorporate it into your own eating patterns.

Many of you may recognize Dr. Barnard as host of four PBS programs on nutrition and health. Widely recognized as a leader in research and education on the critical role of nutrition in diabetes, cardiology, weight, and other aspects of health, he is President of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, author of numerous articles and books, and an adjunct faculty member of the George Washington University School of Medicine. This virtual session is free and open to all and may be accessed via internet or phone. Pre-registration is required. Please go to villageoftakomapark.com or call 301-318-1923 to register and receive access information.

City of Takoma Park's 12th Annual Mid-Winter Play Day

Organized by the nonprofit Let's Play America assisted by the TP Recreation Department

Sunday, February 13, 1 – 4pm

Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue

Everyone deserves to play, people of all abilities, ages, and backgrounds. This indoor/outdoor event will have activities inside and out. When inside, all attendees and volunteers will wear masks. Performers in the Auditorium will include the Takoma Park Community Band, the Chicken Lady, a comedy half hour, Dance Exchange, and Simon Says with Congressman Raskin. Outside activities will include double dutch, floor hockey, hula hooping, hopscotch, corn hole, and four square. Attendees will be able to enjoy these inside activities: dress-up, balloon game, decorate a cookie, board games, face painting, playing with boxes, playing with play dough, recreation room games, yoga heights (mini yoga sessions), and giant checkers, chess, and connect four. Free refreshments will be provided by the Co-op, Giant Food, Target, and Starbucks. Volunteers may email Pat theplaylady@gmail.com or text her at 301-928-9962. Later this month, teen volunteers will be able to sign-up on the Montgomery County Volunteer website. Teens will volunteer from 12 – 5 p.m. www.letsplayamerica.org

Historic Takoma Reading Room

Sundays (first and third)

7328 Carroll Avenue

Visitors will have access to reference books on Takoma and Maryland history, the collection of Takoma Voices and City newsletters, historical journals, and more. Historic Takoma is also hosting the Maryland Reference Collection of the Takoma Park Maryland Library during the library's renovation. Historic Takoma volunteers will be available to answer questions about the collections and Historic Takoma. Reading Room hours will be 1 – 4 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month. historictakoma.org

Docs In Progress

Doc In Progress is offering programs ranging from beginner filmmaking and storytelling workshops to workshops for emerging filmmakers looking to polish their skills in camerawork, editing, and more. For more information, visit www.docsinprogress.org/filmmakers.

PUBLIC DAYS OF NOTE

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day - City Offices Closed

Monday, Jan. 17

All City offices and facilities will be closed Jan. 17 for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The Takoma Park Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services.

POSTPONED

Winter Basketball League

- Basketball practices will begin the week of January 18.
- The first game of the Basketball League will be Saturday, January 29.

Futsal League

- Futsal practices will begin Saturday, January 22.
- The first game for the Futsal League will be Sunday, February 6.

Rentals

- Rentals Services will be postponed until further notice.

TPPD Community Police Academy

- Postponed until Spring